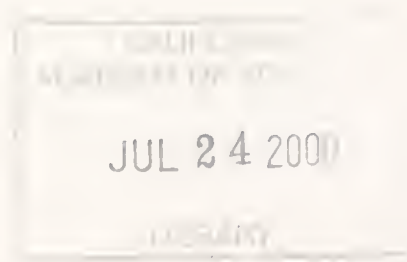
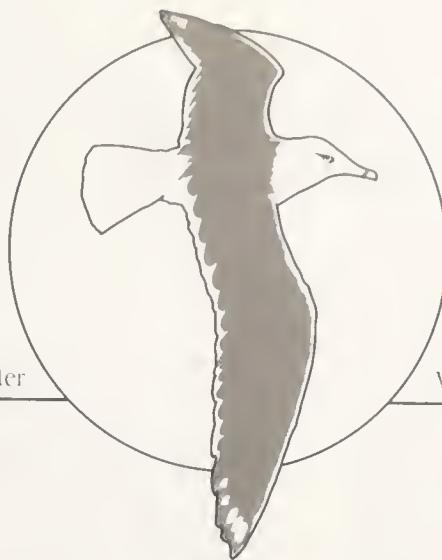


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The Gull



Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 80, No. 7 July/August 1998

Help Us Measure Success!

by Arthur Feinstein

You've read articles in the *Gull* for over 10 years about our on-going and ultimately successful efforts to stop the Port of Oakland from filling wetlands at the Oakland Airport and at the "Distribution Center" located next to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park.

As a result of our successful lawsuit, the Port had to restore 71 acres of wetlands near Arrowhead Marsh in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in San Leandro Bay. That restoration process has been taking place with our help and supervision (the *Gull* will soon carry a pictorial article on the whole story).

On June 10, 1998 we were thrilled to see the first part of that wetland restoration project reach completion as part of the levee surrounding the restored marsh was breached and we watched the tidal waters rush back into those historic tidal wetlands.

Now we have to wait and see if our marsh restoration project will succeed. Will wetland vegetation return? Will the birds return, and which ones? How will we measure success? We'll do it with your help, through bird watching and citizens science!

What is citizens science? Well, where do scientists get their data about bird migrations? Where do they look for data on bird populations?

A lot of that data comes from Audubon Chapters and from you every time you go birding. It's our Christmas Bird Counts and our Gull's Observations column and our Northern California Rare Bird Alert (the Bird Box). That is citizens science. The information you provide through your birding experiences means hard data for scientists. One of the great strengths of our Audubon Chapter is our birding community and we take great pride in the role we play in citizens science.

Why is it important to our wetland restoration project? Wetland restoration is still a very new science and it often doesn't work as well as it should. In fact, very few, if any, wetland restoration projects can boast of total success. Unfortunately, most wetland restoration projects are mitigation projects required of developers by regulatory agencies in order to make up for wetland destruction projects.

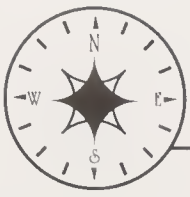
As a result, there is no real interest on the part of the wetland restoration team (which is, after all hired by a developer who is forced to create the wetland) to study the mitigation project once it is completed to see whether it worked and what went right and what went wrong. Thus, wetland science progresses very slowly.

Continued on page 7

Need Seed?

Well, we've got plenty for you! Just give the office a call at 510-843-2222.





Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 1-2, YOSEMITE ALPINE ECOLOGY.

Snow conditions at the time of this writing make selection of any specific location for this year's outing impossible. However, expect a full day's hike in the high country on Saturday, and a shorter hike, returning to our cars at about 3 p.m. on Sunday. Due to its popularity, this trip will be **by reservation only**, and the numbers participating will be strictly limited. This is not primarily a birding trip, but will emphasize general Alpine ecology. All participants should be in good physical condition, with reasonable experience in hiking and climbing at elevations of 8,000 to 11,000 feet, where we will be. Each day you should bring lunch, ample fluids, hat, water repellent jacket, sun lotion, mosquito repellent, and good walking shoes or boots with treaded soles (no smooth-soled tennis or other shoes, please). We will possibly be traversing snow fields after the heavy winter snows in the Sierra. County and Forest Service camp-

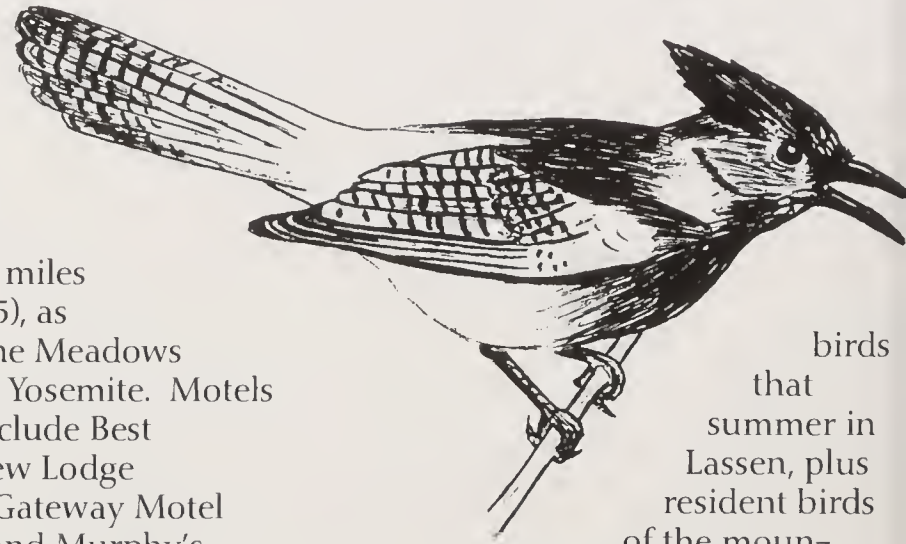
grounds are located between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining off Hwy. 120 (4 to 6 miles west of Hwy. 395), as well as Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite. Motels in Lee Vining include Best Western Lakeview Lodge (619/647-6543), Gateway Motel (619/647-6767), and Murphy's Motel (619/647-6316). For trip reservations and meeting details call - Leader: George Peyton (510) 444-3131 weekdays. \$ (*).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

After a one month "vacation," Allan and Helen resume their usual 1st Sunday of the month Strybing Arboretum half-day field trips. Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way). This is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several micro-habitats attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

FRIDAY - MONDAY, AUGUST 7-10, BACKPACKING TRIP IN LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK.

(New Date) We will backpack in three miles to Snag Lake and spend three nights in primitive camping by a stream near a large meadow. We should see flocks of mixed warblers and other song-



birds that summer in Lassen, plus resident birds of the moun-

tains, Bald Eagles, and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be above 6,000 ft. elevation in beautiful country! To avoid impact in fragile habitat, this trip is limited to 12 people. Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear and food, although some cooperative or shared meals may be arranged. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich. For details call David Rice at (510) 527-7210. \$ (*)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, HAYWARD SHORELINE.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Avenue, for this half-day trip. August is one of the best times to study shorebirds, and there are few Bay Area shorebird locations better than Hayward Shoreline. Depending upon the species, we should see some first fall birds in their once-in-a-lifetime bright juvenal plumage, as well as adults still in breeding plumage or in various stages of molt. Directions: from Oakland, take I-880 south to Hwy. 92 (Hayward/San Mateo Bridge

exit). Go west towards San Mateo. Exit Exit Hwy. 92 at Clawiter, cross Clawiter onto Breakwater Ct., and turn left onto Breakwater Avenue. The Interpretive Center (opens at 10:00, no other facilities) is at the end of the road. Beginners welcome. Leader: Lewis Cooper (510) 526-1773.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29,
TILDEN REGIONAL PARK,
BERKELEY.**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot for this half-day trip. Enter the park from either Canyon Drive (where Spruce meets Wildcat Canyon Rd.) or Shasta Rd., off Grizzly Peak Blvd. in Berkeley and follow the signs to the Nature Center at the north end of the park. We will explore Jewel Lake and other areas. Tilden should be alive with migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers as well as resident birds. Beginners welcome. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5,
LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS,
MARIN.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot for this half-day trip. Take 101 north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. We will see a variety of water birds, raptors, and who knows what in

migration. Beginners welcome. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6,
STRYBING ARBORETUM.**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several micro-habitats attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
(LABOR DAY), COASTAL SAN
FRANCISCO – EARLY FALL
MIGRANTS.**

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot on Merrie Way (a stub street off the north end of Great Highway) above the Cliff House. We will bird the western edge of San Francisco. Labor Day walks in recent years have yielded a variety of shorebirds (Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, Willet, Marbled Godwit), some early fall warblers, Sooty Shearwaters, Cooper's Hawks, and kinglets. Most summer breeders (usually including Hooded Orioles) can be seen. In observance of Labor Day we will avoid working too hard for the birds and expect them to come to us instead. We will finish at noon. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for cool weather. Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9,
MINI-TRIP TO ALAMEDA
SOUTH SHORE AND
SURROUNDING AREAS.**

Anna Wilcox (510)-351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman of Ohlone Audubon have kindly agreed to another season of their wonderful mini-trips to 10 important East Bay birding locations. For this trip, meet at 9:30 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Drive. We will be looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. This trip often produces Clapper Rail and a dozen or more species of shorebirds. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12,
COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO.**

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, at Lake Merced, and in Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers and vagrants. Bring lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Beginners welcome. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074. }

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked with a (*). See below. Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.



One of the joys of birding in your own back yard, is having the chance to get to know a different bird up close. Usually it's the "same old, same old" but once in awhile a new species for your yard list pops up at your feeder and decides to stay to raise a family. Hopefully, they return in ensuing years. Last year a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks discovered my satellite-type sunflower seed feeder. It has a hole near the top for filling which was just the right size for extracting seeds. I also have a sunflower feeder in the front yard which they also frequent. I had heard them and was thrilled to have them enjoy my offerings of food. They are supposedly very tame, especially at campgrounds. But not "my" grosbeaks. Very leery and shy, they fly off at the least sign of movement. Which only adds to their allure. They are very handsome birds: the male's black head contrasts sharply with its orange-brown chest, collar and rump and its boldly-patterned black and white wing and tail patterns. Its beak is chunky and pale. The female is attractive as well, but is duller, brownish with a striped head and a paler breast.

Black-headed Grosbeaks are birds of deciduous and broadleaved evergreen woods. They also favor gardens and parks, especially near streams. They especially enjoy seeds but also eat fruits, berries, and all manner of insects. The most enchanting characteristic of these



birds is their gorgeous song, belted out by both male and female from tree tops or on the wing and even while one of them is sitting on the nest. A rare treat while in Yosemite was spying on a female where she was nesting in a shrub near our cabin. Her forays into operatic song gave away the position of her well-hidden nest. This rollicking song, rising and falling, is similar to that of a robin's but is more fluid and mellow. A neighbor recently asked what bird she was hearing—she just had to know since the song was so beautiful. A recent rainy day in May (yes, **another** one) didn't even deter a long concert by the pair of grosbeaks.

The Black-headed grosbeak nests in dense outer foliage of trees or shrubs (from 4 to 25 feet high). Between 2 and 5 brown-spotted bluish or greenish-white eggs are laid and incubated 12-13 days. When the young are 12 days old, they leave their loosely assembled, thin nest of twigs,

rootlets and other plant materials. Then I expect to see the family lined up for turns at the sunflower seed feeder. I haven't tracked the adults' exact arrival to the area from their winter in southern climates but it seemed later this year, probably due to that old scapegoat, El Nino. I remember think-

ing they left my yard fairly early in the late summer or early fall. Hope to remember to jot down dates this year.

There are an amazing 436 species of finches in the family Frigillidae worldwide. In North America this family is the largest in number of species—83 plus 8 subspecies, some of which don't nest in North America. Included are buntings, *cardinals, *crossbills, dickcissel, *finches, goldfinches, rosy finches, grosbeaks, *juncos, *pyrrhuloxia, redpolls, siskin, *sparrows and *towhees. (Those with asterisks were re-classified along with tanagers in 1976 as a closely-related family, Emberizidae. I mention it because Peterson's latest field guide reflects this and I **try** to be accurate).

I hope you can share the spring song of these beauties, whether in your own back yard or further afield. It will brighten even the rainiest of days.

Birdwatching in Panamá in March 1999

Join the GGAS Panamá Adventure

Come join GGAS past president Steve Margolin in early March, 1999, for our third birding trip to Panamá. At the tropical junction between two

Gifts and Bequests

Birdathon:

May Blaisdell, J. M. Davidson, Ella Driscoll, Patricia Gannon, Joan & Natan Kotlyar, John Platt & Carolyn Queener, Sandra Ruhl

Birds of Honor:

Bristle-thighed Curlew – Alan Hopkins

Memorial:

Stu Currier in memory of Ed Curtis
Frank Scundero & Carol Somerton-Scudero in memory of Richard Duncan

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

continents, we can find a broad range of species in a number of habitats during our ten-day trip. We also look forward to a birding outing with Panamá Audubon Society members.

The first part of the trip will focus on the central lowland rainforest around the Panamá Canal. Our base for birding near the Canal may be a new lodge now under construction in a former military radar tower overlooking the forest canopy. Some of the noted birding areas we will explore near the Canal are the famous Pipeline Road in Soberanía National Park, the Metropolitan Nature Park and the foothills of Cerro Campana. On the Caribbean side, we will bird the Achioté Road and the areas near Fort Sherman.

The second part of the trip will take us to the mountainous western region in search of the Resplendent Quetzal, Bare-necked Umbrellabird and the many other interesting species of the region. Noted birding areas in Western Panamá include El Respingo Trail, La Amistad International Park, and Cerro Punta.

The trip has been planned by members of Golden Gate



Audubon and Panamá Audubon. Our guide in Panamá will be Dr. Lorna Engleman, a Panamanian and one of the leading experts on birds and birding in Panamá. The group will be limited to 12 participants. We hope to enjoy the birds we encounter in diverse tropical habitats, rather than targeting particular species.

For more information, including a detailed itinerary, please contact Steve Margolin at (530) 342-6476.



Cassin of Philadelphia *by Harry Fuller*

John Cassin never saw the western U.S. but he left an indelible mark on California ornithology.

There are five species of western birds with Cassin as their common name. Otherwise he was nearly forgotten.

Cassin was born to a Quaker family near Philadelphia in 1813. His interest in natural science was there from the beginning. He excelled in science studies at the Quaker boarding school in Westtown, Pennsylvania. Incidentally that same school was attended by naturalists Thomas Say and John Townsend who also left their mark on American ornithology. One of Cassin's old botany texts shows that as a teenager he was finding plant species not listed in the book and making his own descriptions.

He followed various careers to support himself, his wife, and children. He worked as an importer, through connections in the Democratic Party he was appointed to a customs post, then he ran a printing company supported largely by government contracts even during the Civil War. Through it all Cassin was this country's first serious bird taxonomist. He was made Honorary Curator of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences in 1842. Despite the "honorary" in the title, he spent endless hours with the academy collection. Cassin's science knowledge was broad; he was the first to point out that the 17-year locusts were not all a single species. As a result there are

insect species named for him as well. However, most of his energy was focused on birds. The Academy was rapidly assembling a remarkable collection of bird skins from around the world. Driven by Cassin's knowledge and energy, and funded by wealthy Philadelphian, Dr. Thomas Wilson, the Academy began buying bird skins from around the globe. The collection plus an extensive library, also paid for by Wilson, gave Cassin unparalleled resources. With Dr. Wilson's money and the constant support of Spencer Baird of the Smithsonian, Cassin and the Academy were at the pinnacle of mid-19th century ornithology, possessing the largest bird skin collection then in existence.

As a result Cassin was the most informed ornithologist of his era in the U.S. Other scientists and collectors consulted him for information. Though he was a talented field observer, it is believed that he personally collected just one bird of lasting significance. In September, 1842, he shot a new vireo near Philadelphia and named it the Philadelphia Vireo. Now we know the bird only passes through its namesake city during migration.

Cassin's contemporaries depended on his global knowledge of birds. He wrote the text of several government scientific reports based on explorations of the western U. S. and military records from the Mexican War. From his desk in the Philadelphia Academy he poured forth publi-

cations and articles on birds across the planet. However, his own attempt to issue a series of books on western birds failed due to lack of subscriptions and the interruption of the Civil War. One volume containing fifty illustrations and descriptions of western and Mexican birds did get published as a supplement to Audubon's Birds of America. Cassin's Illustrations of the Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America was never completed and went out of print after 1865. In fact, it was really a collection of well-edited field notes from the western part of the continent. In some cases it contained the first published accounts of new species such as the Wrentit, collected by Dr. William Gambel.

By the time he died Cassin had written dozens of scientific articles and many hundreds of pages of thoughtful, detailed descriptions of the newly discovered birds of North America, Africa, and the South China Sea. Many government sponsored expedition reports were written by Cassin and printed by his printing company.

Cassin eventually described nearly 200 new bird species from around the world, nearly all from his Academy collection. He first described and named Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Heermann's Gull, Acorn Woodpecker, California (Brown) Towhee, Ross's Goose, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Hutton's Vireo, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's

Measure Success

Sparrow, and Black-throated Sparrow.

He was memorialized by others: Gambel gave Cassin's Auklet its common name; George Lawrence named the Cassin's Kingbird; an army doctor in the southwest described a new sparrow and named it after Cassin while Baird himself named the mountain-loving finch after his friend. This is not surprising though since Baird gathered new specimens from all the military and railroad explorations of the U.S. West and many he sent directly to Cassin to examine and describe. It was soldier John Xantus who collected the first Cassin's Vireo near Fort Tejon, California, though for a long time it was not considered a separate species. That Vireo brings John Cassin's current bird namesake count to five.

During the Civil War Cassin joined the Union Army, then served time in a military prison after being captured by the Confederates. This certainly did not improve his failing health.

Cassin's own life was dedicated to, and shortened by his love of birds. It is certain he knowingly suffered two decades of arsenic poisoning to further his knowledge. The arsenic was contained in the mixture used to preserve the bird skins he would not stay away from and probably led to his death at the age of 55. Yet John Cassin continued, in his own words, "mortgaging myself by perpetual lease to Arsenic and Liver complaint."

Continued from page 1

We hope to do better at Arrowhead Marsh. Will our wetland restoration be better than most others? We sure hope so and we are trying some new techniques. But we won't know unless we monitor the progress of our restoration project as the years go by.

We want our restoration project to provide insights for other wetland restoration projects. To do that, we have developed a strong monitoring program for our marsh so that we can see how well we did and where it isn't working. We can even try to fix it if we can tell something isn't right.

To do this we'll measure a lot of factors at our wetland; the hydrology (water flow), the rate of wetland vegetation growth and, of course, its use by birds. After all, bird use is one of the best indicators of success. In particular, we are trying to create breeding habitat for the endangered California Clapper Rail. Will we succeed?

Other experts will measure the hydrology and vegetation. But the monitoring team is looking to Golden Gate Audubon to provide the birders for the bird monitoring.

Working with a scientific consulting team and with various agencies we will figure out how best to take our bird counts: what time of day, what height of tide, from what locations looking onto which sites.

Through the months and years


to come we hope to have you, our Audubon volunteers, go out and bird the Marsh according to this program. Over the years we will chart how successful we have been in restoring a thriving marsh that attracts and supports a diverse array of bird species.

You don't have to be the world's best birder to do this!

So don't be scared off by the words science or monitoring. This is a fun project and while you have to be able to tell a sandpiper from a godwit you don't have to tell a Western Sandpiper from a Least Sandpiper.

Please join us in celebrating and measuring our wetland restoration project's success. Join our Martin Luther King, Jr. Arrowhead Marsh Monitoring Team. The work will not be arduous, the surveys will take place only once per month.

You'll see lots of birds, you'll be adding to science's store of knowledge that will help make the next wetland restoration project that much better; you'll have fun and earn yourself a true sense of satisfaction.

Call, write, fax or e-mail the Golden Gate Audubon Office and join the Team! Make our restoration project the success it deserves to be. Phone: 510-845-2222; fax: 510-845-5351; e-mail: ggaa@compuserve.com; address: 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite. G, Berkeley, CA 94702. 

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Accountants' Review Report

October 13, 1997

Board of Directors
Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley CA 94702

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., as of May 31, 1997, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All of the information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

A review consists principally of inquiries of organization personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our review was made for the purpose of expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The information included in the accompanying schedule of changes in net assets and graphs is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes. Such information has been subjected to the inquiry and analytical procedures applied in the review of the basic financial statements and we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made thereto.

DAMASCO & ASSOCIATES

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, MAY 31, 1997

ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Current Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$25,320	\$3,514	\$2,433	\$31,267
Interest receivable	3,444	707	489	4,640
Other receivables	2,680	3,245	-	5,925
Inventory	3,906	-	-	3,906
Marketable securities at market	464,282	95,246	65,941	625,469
Deposits	360	-	-	360
Total Current Assets	499,992	102,712	68,863	671,567
Property and equipment, net	2,842	-	-	2,842
Total Assets	\$502,834	\$102,712	\$68,863	\$674,409
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	2,382	-	-	2,382
Payroll and sales taxes payable	705	-	-	705
Total Current Liabilities	3,087	-	-	3,087
Net Assets	499,747	102,712	68,863	671,322
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$502,834	\$102,712	\$68,863	\$674,409

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1997

SUPPORT & REVENUE:	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Public Support				
Direct Contributions				
Gifts and donations	\$13,642	\$3,262	\$ -	\$16,904
Bird-a-Thon	1,550	-	-	1,550
Total Direct Contributions	15,192	3,262	-	18,454
Indirect Contributions				
Earth Share	5,939	-	-	5,939
Total Public Support	21,131	3,262	-	24,393
Revenue				
Investment earnings, net	48,324	9,976	8,358	66,658
Membership dues	26,010	-	-	26,010
Newsletter subscriptions	1,455	-	-	1,455
Program service fees	1,350	-	-	1,350
Merchandise sales (net of direct expenses of \$6,743)	1,348	-	-	1,348
Insurance refund	1,341	-	-	1,341
Total Revenue	79,828	9,976	8,358	98,162
Net assets released from restriction	1,135	(1,135)	-	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	102,094	12,103	8,358	122,555
EXPENSES:				
Program Services				
Newsletter	26,313	-	-	26,313
Conservation	16,157	790	-	16,947
Other educational programs	18,859	-	-	18,859
Management and general	8,889	807	3,862	13,558
Fundraising	1,827	-	-	1,827
Total Expenses	72,045	1,597	3,862	77,504
Change in net assets	30,049	10,506	4,496	45,051
Net assets at June 1, 1996, as restated	469,698	92,206	64,567	626,271
Net assets at May 31, 1997	\$499,747	\$ 102,712	\$68,863	\$671,322

Note 1-Description of Organization

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. (the Society) is a membership organization engaged in conservation, public education and research activities focusing on birds, other wildlife and wildlife habitats. The Society is an authorized chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Note 2-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Note 3). The accounts and activities of the Society are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into net asset categories that are in accordance with specified activities or objectives. Accordingly, all financial transactions have been recorded and reported in the following net asset categories as prescribed for not-for-profit organizations by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Society which have not been restricted by a donor for a specific use. Assets for general use are classified as unrestricted. The board has designated certain unrestricted funds for specific purposes.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of cash and other assets received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restriction. At May 31, 1997 \$84,670 of temporarily restricted funds are to be used for land acquisition and for improving wildlife habitats. Also, \$10,162 is earmarked for protection of nesting habitats at the Oakland Airport and for specific research projects.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of assets whose use has been restricted for investment in perpetuity. The income from these assets is available for either general operations or specific programs as specified by the donor.

Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of management's estimates.

Cash equivalents are stated at cost (Note 4).

Marketable Securities are stated at market value (Notes 3 and 5).

Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. Inventory consists primarily of bird feed, bird feeders and education books held for sale.

Property and equipment purchased by the Society are carried at cost. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives ranging from five to ten years.

Income Tax Status

The Society is organized under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity. The State of California has also granted the Society a tax-exempt status.

Note 3 - Adoption Of Accounting Principles and Presentation The May 31, 1997 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and the June 1, 1996 fund balances have been restated to reflect GAAP, including Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements No. 116, 117 and 124 described below.

In June 1995, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 116 "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made" (SFAS 116). A significant provision of this

Financial Statements For The Year Ended May 31, 1997

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1997

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$45,051
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used by operating activities:	
Depreciation	1,112
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	(56,639)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Receivables	(6,656)
Inventory	(2,139)
Accounts payable	(753)
Payroll and sales taxes payable	(160)

NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	(20,184)
--	----------

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Disposition of property and equipment	1,258
Purchase of marketable securities	(181,412)
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	172,352

NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	(7,822)
--	---------

NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	(28,006)
--	----------

Cash and cash equivalents, June 1, 1996

Cash and cash equivalents, May 31, 1997

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1997

	EXCESS NET ASSETS JUNE 1, 1996 AS RESTATED	CHANGES TO FIXED ASSETS	(DEDUCTION) RELATIVE EXPENSES	NET ASSETS MAY 31, 1997
Unrestricted:				
General Operating	349,354	1,258	20,204	370,796
Designated:				
Board Reserve	\$98,191	\$	\$9,772	\$107,963
Covell Education	16,961	1,185	18,146	
Properties	5,212	(1,258)	(1,112)	2,842
Temporarily Restricted:	\$469,698	-	30,049	\$499,747
Sanctuary	77,008	-	7,662	84,670
Bayshore	10,279	-	(117)	10,162
Life Membership	4,919	-	489	5,408
Rare Bird Alert	-	-	2,286	2,286
Alameda Wildlife Refuge	-	-	186	186
Permanently restricted:	92,206	10,506	102,712	
Endowment	64,367	-	4,496	68,863
Total	\$626,271	\$-	\$45,051	\$671,322

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES, FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1997

	PROGRAM SERVICES				SUPPORT		TOTAL
	NEWSLETTER	CONSERVATION	EDUCATIONAL	TOTAL	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
Printing and publications	\$16,570	\$167	\$556	\$17,293	\$40	\$1,781	\$19,114
Salaries and wages	-	6,971	6,971	13,942	4,647	-	18,589
Postage and mailing	9,652	780	922	11,354	281	-	11,635
Occupancy	-	2,534	2,534	4,668	1,556	-	6,224
Grants and allocations	-	2,550	2,477	4,827	-	-	4,827
Accounting fees	-	-	-	-	4,552	-	4,552
Insurance	-	950	950	1,900	635	-	2,535
Telephone	-	583	999	1,582	589	-	1,971
Supplies	-	580	745	1,325	586	-	1,711
Payroll taxes	-	512	512	1,024	341	-	1,365
Conferences and meetings	-	-	1,222	1,222	-	-	1,222
Legal	-	1,156	-	1,156	-	-	1,156
Miscellaneous expense	91	147	254	492	214	46	752
Room rents	-	-	500	500	-	-	500
Maintenance and repairs	-	-	-	-	165	-	165
Dues and subscriptions	-	-	-	-	98	-	98
	26,313	16,530	18,442	61,285	13,280	1,827	76,392
Depreciation	-	417	417	834	278	-	1,112
Total Functional Expenses	\$26,313	\$16,947	\$18,859	\$62,119	\$13,558	\$1,827	\$77,504

Statement of the requirement to record a receivable for contributions pledged. At May 31, 1997 the Society had no pledged contributions. SFAS 116 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 1995 for non-profit organizations with less than \$5 million in total assets and less than \$1 million in annual expenses. In June 1995, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 117, "Financial Statements for Not-for-Profit Organizations" (SFAS 117). This statement established standards for general-purpose external financial statements provided by a not-for-profit organization. SFAS 117 is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 1995 for non-profit organizations with less than \$5 million in total assets and less than \$1 million in annual expenses. The net assets at May 31, 1996 have been restated to reflect adoption of this statement. In November 1995, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement No. 124 "Accounting for Certain Investments Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations" (SFAS 124). This Statement establishes standards for accounting for certain investments held by not-for-profit organizations. It requires that investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities be reported at fair value with gains and losses included in a statement of activities. SFAS 124 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 1995. The net assets at June 1, 1996 have been restated to reflect adoption of this statement.

The following summarizes the changes made to the June 1, 1996 net assets:

Total net assets at June 1, 1996 as previously stated	\$515,758
Restatement of marketable securities at market value (Note 5) 110,535	

Total net assets at June 1, 1996, as restated	\$626,271
---	-----------

Net assets designated as:

Unrestricted	\$469,698
Temporarily restricted	92,206
Permanently restricted	64,367
Total net assets	\$626,271

Note 4 -Cash Equivalents

Cash not immediately required for current operations is invested in money market funds and certificates of deposit which earn interest at varying rates. Interest earned on these investments was \$1,025 for the year ended May 31, 1997.

Note 5 -Marketable Securities

Marketable securities at May 31, 1997, are summarized as follows:

	Cost	Market Value	Unrealized Gain (Loss)
Corporate stocks	\$251,905	\$379,945	\$148,038
Corporate bonds	105,312	105,757	2,445
US Government Securities	139,679	139,769	90
Total Marketable Securities	\$474,896	\$625,469	\$150,573

Investment earnings for the year were as follows:

Interest and Dividends	\$21,182
Realized gains on sales	16,599
Unrealized gains	40,040
Management fees	(11,165)

\$66,658

Note 6 -Property and Equipment

At May 31, 1997, fixed assets consisted of the following:

	1997
Office Equipment	\$24,290
Furniture and fixtures	658
Other equipment	380
Total Property & Equipment	25,328
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	22,486
Net Property & Equipment	\$2,842
Depreciation expense for the year was \$1,112.	

Note 7 -Leases

The Society leases its office under a month-to-month operating lease. Total rental expense under this lease for the year amounted to \$6,224.

Note 8 -Lobbying Expense

In furtherance of the exempt purpose of protecting wildlife habitats, the Society contributes to the funding of National Audubon Society's (NAS) California Legislative Affairs Director (the California Audubon Legislative Affairs Program, a joint program of the NAS and California chapters of the NAS), and contributes to the funding of the Planning and Conservation League. In addition, the Society occasionally publishes information regarding pending legislation in its monthly newsletter, provides testimony to legislative bodies and contributes to campaigns in support of or opposition to ballot initiatives related to wildlife and wildlife habitats. The total amount of expenditures for direct lobbying and grass roots communications was \$1,318 for the year ended May 31, 1997.



April 29 - May 28, 1998

Dl Nino-related observations continued this month, as did the rain, with 108 days of measurable rainfall by May 11 breaking the San Francisco record set in 1889-90. By May 27, the city had experienced the second wettest year since 1861-2, with over 46" of precipitation. It is thought that the anomalous weather patterns are responsible for the numerous west coast reports of a very rarely seen curlew species, as described below.

Loons to Ducks

An alternate-plumaged **Yellow-Billed Loon** was photographed May 17 (CB) on San Francisco Bay between San Francisco and Richmond (county location uncertain), and hopefully the record will be submitted for review. A Monterey Bay, MTY, pelagic trip May 16 recorded 2 Laysan Albatross and 93 Black-footed Albatross (DLSh). It is notable that a flying fish was also seen in those waters, a sure sign that the warm waters of El Nino were still present. Other reports of Black-footed Albatross were scattered, with 2

seen from shore at Andrew Molera State Park, MTY, May 2 (MPRBA) and one off Pigeon Pt., SM, May 14. The high count of Sooty Shearwaters for the period was 1,600 off Pigeon Pt., SM, May 14 (BS fide RT). There were 4 Pink-footed Shearwaters sighted during the same seawatch, with another bird at the same location on May 15 (BM). The May 16 Monterey pelagic trip also produced 2 very late Short-tailed Shearwaters, 375 Pink-footed Shearwaters, and one Flesh-footed-Shearwater (DLSh). One other Flesh-footed Shearwater was found on a trip out to the Farallones, SF, May 23 (DF). A single Ashy storm Petrel, suspected but not proved to breed in the area, was at Ano Nuevo State Park, SM, May 26 (GS fide RT). Perhaps the most unusual pelagic bird for the period was a **Red-footed Booby**, an extremely rare visitor from the tropics, also sighted off Pigeon Pt., SM, May 14 (BS fide RT). Again this month, an individual of its sister species, the **Brown Booby**, was seen on a trip out to the Farallones, SF, May 23 (DF), adding to several recent records either on or near this location.

The last report of the Oldsquaw lingering at Moss Landing Harbor, MTY, was May 2 (MPRBA). Three late White-fronted Geese were reported, one a continuing bird at Palo Alto Baylands Duck Pond May 6 (MR), one at Pigeon Pt., SM, May 17 (PM) and the last at Lake Merced, SF, May 27 (AH). A male Harlequin Duck was sighted at Brooks Island, CC, May 24-25 (DSc, KB).

Raptors to Skimmers

Swainson's Hawks were nesting on Jersey Island Road, CC, May 4 (JM). One other notable raptor was a Northern Goshawk 15 miles west

of Likely, LAS, May 21, an unusual interior location for the species on that date (DS).

Now to our top news item: The west coast has been invaded by one of the rarest of North American shorebirds, the **Bristle-thighed Curlew** (*Numenius tahitiensis*). Fourteen Reports came from Washington and Oregon, as well as **two** from Northern California, the first from Crescent City Harbor, DN, May 14 (fide DY) and the second at Kehoe Beach, PRNS, MRN, May 16 (CLi, LL, GG). The PRNS bird stayed around until at least May 25 (KH), providing ample viewing opportunities for many lucky birders. This species breeds in a small area of western Alaska and winters in the South Pacific. Previously, there have been no accepted records for California, and only one unequivocal North American report (British Columbia, 1969) from outside its normal breeding range, although there are 6 other records considered inconclusive by many. Birders who did not make it to these locations can still view nice photographs and written descriptions of both California birds on Joe Morlan's internet site:

<http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/>. Joe's site provided a link to a special website devoted to this phenomenon, called "The Great Curlew Fallout of '98", which contained a wonderful header "Knee Deep in Bristle-thighed Curlews." According to the analysis presented there, the Pacific waters warmed by El Nino created an abnormal flow of air, from the central Pacific to the south coast of Oregon, diverting the birds, which were then kept grounded by the westerly winds.

Kehoe Beach at Point Reyes National Seashore, MRN, may have played host to yet another very rare shorebird, the **Asian Gray-**

Abbreviations for Observers. CB, Chuck Britten; KB, Ken Burton; HC, Hugh Cotter; ME, Mark Eaton; MF, Mike Feighner; DF, Dan Froelich; GG, George Griffith; KG, Kevin Guse; KH, Keith Hansen; AH, Alan Hopkins; BL, Bob Lewis; CLi, Cindy Lieurance; LL, Leslie Lieurance; CL, Calvin Lou; BM, Bert McKee; PM, Peter Metropolis; JM, Joe Morlan; DN, David Nelson; BR, Bob Reiling; MR, Mike Rogers; JR, Joost Romeo; SR, Steve Rottenborn; BS, Barry Sauppe; RS, Rusty Scalf; DSc, Don Schmoltdt; DS, Doug Shaw; DLSh, Debra Love Shearwater; JS, John Sterling; GS, Gary Strachen; RT, Ron Thorn; DI, Dorothy Tobkin; VW, Vaughan Waters; JW, Jerry White; DY, David Yee.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others. ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; CC, Contra Costa; CCRS, Coyote Creek Riparian Station; DN, Del Norte; FRE, Fresno; LAS, Lassen; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; PLU, Plumas; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SBT, San Benito; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; STA, Stanislaus.

tailed Tattler. This species is a regular migrant on the Aleutians and Bering Sea, but with only one previous state record from LA County (Small, 1994). It was tentatively identified by KH and other observers May 25-26 and hopefully this record will be submitted for approval to the California Bird Record Committee.

A single breeding-plumaged American Golden Plover was at Moonglow Dairy, MTY, May 2, (MPRBA). There was a Little Blue Heron at Alviso, SCL, Apr. 29 (PM), and another flew over Big Sur, MTY, Apr. 30 (a third county record) (MPRBA). Other Little Blue Heron sightings were at Arzino Ranch, SCL, May 7 (SR) and May 10 (KG), and at New Chicago Marsh, SCL, May 17 (JM). The first White-faced Ibis recorded at Big Sur, MTY, flew by on Apr. 30, and another 5 were at Zmudowski State Beach, MTY, May 2 (MPRBA). Three individual Parasitic Jaeger reports came from Pigeon Pt., SM, on Apr. 30, May 14 and 15 (BS fide RT, BM), and another 2 were off Duxbury Reef, MRN, May 3 (KH). Six Pomarine Jaegers were noted on the aforementioned pelagic trip May 16 (DLSh) and another was seen off Bolinas, MRN, May 28 (KH).

The **Little Gull** first reported at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso, SCL, Apr. 28 remained until May 1-2 (BR, ME). A first summer **Little Gull** was found at the same location May 8, 10, and 17 (SR, KG, JM). An adult Franklin's Gull was off Pigeon Pt., SM, (Apr. 30) (BS fide RT), another adult in alternate plumage was at the CCRS, SCL, May 13 (BR), and 2 adults were at Pigeon Pt., SM, May 15 (RT). The Laughing Gull that wintered at Moss Landing, MTY, was still there May 2 (MPRBA).

There were three Elegant Terns at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, May 3 (KH), two at Pigeon Pt., SM, May 15 (BM), and four at Brooks Island, CC, May 26 (DSc). An Arctic Tern in alternate plumage flew by the Cliff House, SF May 12 (AH), one individual was at Steinberger Slough, SCL, May 15 (RT), and another was sighted on the May 16 MTY pelagic trip (DLSh). Several out-of-range Least Terns were reported: two May 2 at Moss Landing, MTY (BL, RS), three at Steinberger Slough, SM, May 15 (RT), one at the Salinas R. Wildlife Area May 17 (MPRBA), and two at Brooks Island, CC, May 25 (DSc). A high count of 32 Common Terns was sighted off Duxbury Reef, MRN, May 3 (KH), and 17 others were counted on the MTY pelagic trip May 16 (DLSh). At least 12 other birds were seen in Fresno, Marin, San Mateo and San Francisco counties. A total of 10 Black Terns were reported over Contra Costa, Fresno, Mendocino, Monterey, and Santa Clara counties. Black Skimmers continued in Santa Clara County, with four at Shoreline Lake May 15 (MF).

Doves to Grackles

A White-winged Dove, very rare for the spring, was at Big Sur, MTY, May 18 (MPRBA). An out-of-range Costa's Hummingbirds was at Ft. Bragg, MEN May 2 (DT). Individual Chimney Swifts flew over Big Sur, MTY, May 9 (a third county record) and again on May 17 (MPRBA). A singing **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard in Glen Canyon Park, SF, May 8. (All). This species is extremely rare in coastal northern and central CA (Small, 1994),

Warbler sightings

Tennessee Warbler

Apr. 29-May 2 Mt. Davidson, SF HIC, CL

Palm Warbler

Apr. 30 Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN GG

May 6 El Granada, SM BS fide RT

Hooded Warbler

May 18 Mountain Lake Park, SF DN, JR

Northern Parula

May 17 Fort Ord, MTY MPRBA

May 9 Ed Levin Pk., SM DS

May 13 Coyote Pt. Co. Pk., SM RT

May 17 L. Pillsbury, LAK JW

May 28 Lincoln Park, SF AH

American Redstart

Apr. 30 Coyote Pt. Museum, SM RT

May 26 Ano Nuevo State Park, SM

GS fide RT

Painted Redstart

May 2 Filoli Gardens Visitor Center VW

Woodside, SM

although from 1990-96, it has appeared at outer PRNS, MRN. Interesting Wood Warbler reports were on the upswing this month (see chart). A female Summer Tanager, rare for May in Northern California, was sighted in San Bruno, SM, May 25 (RT).

Consistent with their usual seasonal distribution, a total of 12 Blue Grosbeaks were reported over Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Stanislaus counties, and single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Marin and San Mateo counties. Similarly, Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Stanislaus and Marin counties. A Brewer's Sparrow, rare near the coast, was found in Belmont, SM, May 10 (RT). More Great-tailed Grackles keep popping up, with an impressive nesting colony of eight birds in Woodlake, TUL, Apr. 29 (JS), as well as a total of 12 others reported from Contra Costa, Monterey, Plumas, San Francisco, San Benito, and Stanislaus counties. Considering that this species was unknown in California until 1964, and extremely rare in northern California until recently, it certainly appears to be extending its range.





A Heartfelt Thanks

To all of you who have enjoyed our wonderful East Bay nature programs just a little bit more because of those delicious brownies and cookies, we have sad news. Mildred Bennett and Lola Harris who have provided those tasty treats for many years are retiring from the field. We'll all miss those treats but we sure will miss Mildred and Lola a whole lot more. But we hope to continue to see them both at our meetings. Please say hello and thanks to them when next you meet (our next program will be in September).

We'll still have drinks and cookies at

the programs, but the cookies will be store bought and it just won't be the same. Thanks again to two very wonderful GGAS volunteers!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA.

Send address changes to office promptly. Post Office does not forward *The Gull*. Monthly meeting: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, local and national, \$30 dollars per year (\$20 per year new members) includes *Audubon Magazine* and *The Gull*. Renewals should be sent directly to National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *The Gull* separately: \$10 per year, single issues \$1.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue and July 15th for the September issue.

The Gull -- ISSN 0164-971X

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DESIGN BY SF ART DEPARTMENT PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
INWORKS